

Accelerated Academic Grants Awarded

Grants will allow public schools to offer advanced coursework to students

The Delaware Department of Education is pleased to announce the award recipients of its Accelerated Academic Grants, the new state program that made funds available for programs targeted at academically advanced students.

The program – created through legislation proposed last year by Lieutenant Governor Matt Denn and the chairs of the General Assembly’s education committees, Sen. Dave Sokola and Rep. Darryl Scott – allows school districts to design programs targeted at students who are ahead of grade level in reading, writing, math or science.

Local school districts and schools applied for start-up grants for programs targeted at students who are at least a half year ahead of grade level based upon current state standards. Most of the programs are expected to be offered beginning in the 2014-2015 school year.

The reviewing committee selected eight awardees, with awards totaling \$246,535.70. The awardees represent each county (three in New Castle, three in Kent and two in Sussex), different grade levels and both traditional and charter schools.

The winners are:

▪ Caesar Rodney School District	\$65,422.50
▪ Cape Henlopen School District	\$57,623.20
▪ Brandywine School District	\$30,000.00
▪ POLYTECH School District	\$23,800.00
▪ Indian River School District	\$21,100.00

- **Brandywine School District:** This vertically-designed program expands opportunities for high school students, offered as a STEM cluster of critical courses, but matched with arts and humanities.
- **POLYTECH School District:** This funding will allow POLYTECH to expand its AP services for students including online courses and more topics of study.
- **Indian River School District:** The BRITE (Bringing Intellectual Talents Everyday) Project's purpose is to provide professional development for teachers and administrators' implementation of the *SpringBoard* program with honors level students. *SpringBoard* curricula are designed to build a pathway in grades 6-10 towards AP competency in later grades.
- **Las Americas ASPIRA Academy:** ASPIRA will implement the QUEST (Quality Utilization and Enrichment of Student Talents) Program that will be focused on developing students' critical, creative and logical thinking skills as well as problem-solving abilities.
- **Capital School District :** This funding will permit William Henry Middle School to implement *Making Math Matter* to identify 5th and 6th grade students from underrepresented groups with the potential for success in advanced math classes and prepare them to qualify for and pass Algebra I in seventh grade.
- **Newark Charter High School:** NCHS just opened for 9th grade and is planning for grades 10 to 12. This grant will allow the school to offer a wide variety of AP coursework for students capable of accelerated learning.